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University for Peace

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

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I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2018, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-third session the item entitled "University for Peace" and to allocate it to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

2. The Fourth Committee considered the item and held a general debate on it at its 16th meeting, on 26 October. At the same meeting, the Committee took action on the item. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary record.[1]

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/73/313).

4. At the 16th meeting, the Rector of the University for Peace made a statement, which was followed by an interactive dialogue.

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.7

5. At the 16th meeting, on 26 October, the representative of Costa Rica, on behalf of Argentina, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Ireland, Israel, Lebanon, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Spain, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Ukraine and Uruguay, introduced a draft resolution entitled "University for Peace" (A/C.4/73/L.7). Subsequently, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Cuba, Estonia,

[1] A/C.4/73/SR.16.

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Finland, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Peru and the Philippines joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

7. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.7 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. Recommendation of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

8. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

University for Peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 70/79 of 9 December 2015, in which it recalled that, in its resolution 34/111 of 14 December 1979, it had approved the idea of establishing the University for Peace as a specialized international centre for higher education, research and the dissemination of knowledge specifically aimed at training and education for peace and its universal promotion within the United Nations system, as well as all preceding resolutions on this item,

Recalling also that, in its resolution 35/55 of 5 December 1980, the General Assembly approved the establishment of the University for Peace in conformity with the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace, contained in the annex to that resolution,

Taking into account that in 2020 the University will celebrate 40 years of executing the mandate given to it by the General Assembly of educating and training leaders for peace,

Recognizing the important and varied activities carried out by the University during the period from 2015 to 2018 with the valuable assistance and contributions of Governments, foundations and non-governmental organizations, in particular the progress made in the further development and implementation of the academic programme and in expanding its coverage in various regions of the world,

Noting with appreciation that the University has reaffirmed its commitment to academic excellence throughout its doctoral and master's degree programmes in areas related to peace studies, security and the environment, which include two master's degree programmes taught in Spanish,

Noting with appreciation also that the majority of the students and alumni are women, and acknowledging the fact that women play a critical role as peacebuilders at the international, national and local levels,

Noting that the University places special emphasis on the areas of conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and the peaceful settlement of disputes and that it has launched capacity-building programmes in the areas of access to justice, international human rights law, post-conflict consensus-building and training of academic experts in the techniques of peaceful conflict resolution,

Noting with appreciation the support provided to the University by the host country, Costa Rica,

Recognizing the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[1] and the need to coordinate efforts for its implementation,

Recognizing also the relevance of Sustainable Development Goal 4, to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities

[1] Resolution 70/1.

for all, in particular its target 4.b, which aims to substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries by 2020,

Outlining the new initiatives of the University, such as the off-campus master's degree programme in transnational crime and justice, the master's degree programme in peace, governance and security and the seminars and workshops on international law and access to justice in Latin America,

Taking note of the commitment of the University in its support to the work of the United Nations, and recognizing its contribution through programmes focused on peacebuilding and sustaining peace,

Considering the importance of promoting education for peace that fosters respect for the values inherent in peace and universal coexistence among people, including respect for the life, dignity and integrity of human beings, as well as friendship and solidarity among people irrespective of their nationality, race, sex, religion or culture, in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations,

Considering also the need for the University to consolidate its development and the relaunch of its activities,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/79, outlining the progress made with regard to the administrative and financial stabilization of the University for Peace and through its recent process of academic reform through the implementation of its innovative programmes on critical subjects related to peace and security;[2]

2. *Requests* the University, given its role in developing new concepts and approaches to security through education, training and research in order to respond effectively to emerging threats to peace, to find viable ways to further strengthen cooperation with the United Nations system;

3. *Recalls* its resolution 64/83 of 10 December 2009, and reiterates the request made to the Secretary-General to establish, under his leadership, a trust fund for peace to facilitate the receipt of voluntary contributions to the University;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to expand the scope for using the services of the University as part of his conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts through the training of staff, especially those concerned with peacekeeping and peacebuilding, in order to strengthen their capacities in this area, and in the promotion of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace[3] and of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[1]

5. *Requests* Member States to take the lead in supporting the mission of the University by recognizing the institution and, when possible, making financial contributions that will make it possible for the University to offer its programmes of study to all students who wish to participate in them, and by facilitating the University's operations in host countries;

6. *Invites* Member States that have not already done so to accede to the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace,[4] thereby demonstrating their support for an educational institution established pursuant to a General Assembly resolution and devoted to the promotion of a universal culture of peace and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

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[2] A/73/313.

[3] Resolutions 53/243 A and B.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1223, No. 19735.

7. *Invites* the University to further strengthen and broaden the outreach of its programmes and activities for cooperation with and capacity-building for Member States in the areas of conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding;

8. *Encourages* intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, interested individuals and philanthropists to contribute to the programmes and core budget of the University to enable it to continue to perform its valuable work worldwide in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in the substantial transformations that took place in the context of the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations with regard to such issues as gender equality and the empowerment of women, human rights, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and climate change;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-sixth session the item entitled "University for Peace", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at that session a report on the work of the University.